

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polishing puck assembly for holding a fiber optic connector comprising:

a puck member including a planar bottom, and a longitudinal axis perpendicular to the planar bottom, the puck member defining a hole through the puck member coaxial with the longitudinal axis, the hole sized for receiving an optical fiber of the fiber optic connector;

a weight slidably mounted to the puck member, the weight including a lower surface facing in the same direction as the planar bottom ~~surface~~ of the puck member;

the puck member and the weight defining a chamber for receipt of ~~a~~ the fiber optic connector wherein the lower surface of the weight rests on a rearward facing component of the connector, and wherein the optical fiber protrudes through the hole through the puck member.

2. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 1, wherein the puck member includes a base portion, and an upper portion, the upper portion releasably mounted to the base portion, the upper portion including a longitudinal slot extending parallel to the longitudinal axis.

3. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 2, wherein the upper portion is mounted to the base portion with a ball and groove arrangement, wherein the ball is spring loaded, and wherein the groove engaged with the ball is circular.

4. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 2, wherein the upper portion includes an axial bore and an inner shoulder transverse to the axial bore, a lower portion of the axial bore defining a first diameter, an upper portion of the axial bore defining an inner diameter greater than the inner diameter of the lower portion, the weight including a shoulder engageable with the

shoulder of the upper portion to limit sliding movement of the weight relative to the upper portion.

5. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 1, wherein the weight includes a longitudinal slot extending parallel to the longitudinal axis.

6. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 1, wherein the weight is releasably mounted to the puck member.

7. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 6, wherein the releasable mount includes a ball and groove arrangement, wherein the ball is spring loaded, and wherein the groove engaged with the ball is linear and extends parallel to the longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) The puck assembly of claim 1, wherein the planar bottom includes a plurality of linear grooves, the linear grooves defining a crosshatched pattern.

9-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of polishing a fiber optic connector comprising the steps of:

positioning a fiber optic connector in a puck member, wherein a fiber and a supporting ferrule of the fiber optic connector is positioned in an opening through the puck member extending along a longitudinal axis of the puck member, the puck member having a bottom surface defining a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis;

slidably mounting a weight to the puck member, wherein the weight is slidable in a direction of the longitudinal axis;

resting the weight on a rearward-facing surface of the fiber optic connector, wherein the ferrule protrudes below the bottom surface of the puck member;

moving the puck member relative to a polishing surface to polish the fiber.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of positioning a cable connected to the fiber optic connector in a slot extending through the weight.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the positioning step comprises the steps of mounting the fiber optic connector to a nest of a puck base of the puck member, positioning a cable connected to the fiber optic connector in a slot extending through a puck top of the puck member, and snapping the puck top to the puck base by pushing the puck top in a direction of a longitudinal axis of the puck base.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of slideably mounting the weight includes the steps of positioning the cable in a slot extending through the weight, and snapping the weight to the puck top by pushing the weight in a direction of the longitudinal axis of the puck base.

28-31. (Canceled)